



Minuteman UPDATE

April 2004

*Massachusetts National
Guard monthly
newsletter for members,
families, and friends*

Visit the Massachusetts National Guard Website at www.state.ma.us/guard

CW2 Rose New AGR Manager

New Bedford native Chief Warrant Officer Doreen Rose is the new Active Guard Reserve Manager at Joint Force Headquarters. She recently returned to Massachusetts after a year-and-a-half tour of duty at Arlington Hall, the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Virginia.

"The tour there has been just great," said Chief Warrant Officer Rose, "but I'm very happy to be back home." Rose was the chief of the Federal Recognition Section of the Personnel Division at the Readiness Center. "My family is in New Bedford, and as good a learning experience as the Arlington Hall duty was, I was ready and looking forward to being back home," she explained.

Rose, who is a 14-year-veteran of the Army National Guard, said that she has gotten great satisfaction from her Army career and the opportunities it has presented. She spent the first part of her career as an enlisted soldier, attaining the rank of sergeant first class before moving to the warrant officer corps.



Massachusetts Volunteer Militia

Have you seen what seems to be a new group of soldiers recently? The uniforms are the same BDU's, but the shoulder patch is a red outline of Massachusetts and the rank insignia is shiny brass, not subdued. What you are seeing are members of the recently constituted Massachusetts Volunteer Militia.

Since 9/11, the needs and requirements of the National Guard have seen dramatic changes. The increased tempo of missions, especially those in Afghanistan and Iraq, have placed additional demands on the soldiers of the National Guard. Seeing that, the Adjutant General, Major General George Keefe ordered the reorganization of the Massachusetts Military Reserve into the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia.

The role of the Mass. Volunteer Militia is to assist the Massachusetts Army and Air National Guard in meeting their missions.

Journalism Award to Mass. Guard

The Massachusetts National Guard was well represented in the 2003 Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Journalism Competition.

The Massachusetts Joint Force Headquarters received a 3rd place award in the Command Information Plan category for a video done by Staff Sgt. George Young, Sgt. 1st Class Steven Tedeschi, and Chief Warrant Officer Richard Woodlock.

A panel of 25 professionals from the commercial media, academia and Department of Defense community personnel reviewed 247 print and 81 broadcast submissions to determine the winners. Winning entries will be forwarded to DoD for the Thomas Jefferson Awards Program scheduled April 19-23. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs is scheduled to announce results May 3.

The Massachusetts Guard was one of only four Guard winners in the worldwide Army competition that included submissions from active component commands and all Reserve and Guard Commands. Judging for the competition was conducted February 26-27, 2004, in Alexandria, Va.

Recruiting Breaks 200

Congratulations to Army Recruiting and Retention! These fine men and women enlisted over 200 aspiring soldiers during February and March 2004. This is the first time in three years this highwater mark has been reached.

The Battle Simulation Center

From Marine Mess Hall to a high-tech facility, Building #1206 on Camp Edwards, Mass. is feeding a different type of soldiers' appetite these days. The building was converted from a dining hall to a state of the art training facility and conference center. Renamed "The Battle Simulation Center," Building #1206 houses the Janus Linux based software (version 7.3) that is used to build realistic computer simulated warfare scenarios that can be tailored for a unit's mission and training objectives. "As long as there's a good plan, a good training plan, with clear objectives, and commander's intent, they can build any scenario," said Capt. Bill Maynard, Officer in Charge of the Center.

"It can do MP, terrorist, disaster and chemical disaster scenarios," said Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Taylor, the Janus System Noncommissioned Officer in Charge.

To assist in support of the warfare exercises, there are 20 hands-free telephones to assist in support of warfare exercises. "This helps the Tactical Operations Center (TOC), who are in another area outside the building, communicate with personnel that are working the computers," stated Sgt. 1st Class Taylor. A future plan in the design of the building is to provide standard 110 volt power connectivity so TOCs can setup and park adjacent to the Janus Center.

Additionally, there are 20 new computer systems to support the operation that can be networked and patched in at any location in the building. "Each of these floor jacks has LAN connections to the network with conduits that run cables underground. So, you don't have wires running all over the floor when you're running a warfare scenario. You can focus right on the warfare instead of worrying about connectivity," said Sgt. 1st Class Taylor.

The center can also be used as a multimedia conference center and classroom. Incorporated in the center's design is a state of the art audio visual presentation system, consisting of theater sound and a high intensity LCD video projector illuminating a 10' by 12' automated movie screen fed from either a computer, DVD player, VHS VCR, security cameras, or other multimedia devices. In addition to the public address system is a wireless microphone for the presenter.

"This is really the only facility like this in the Guard. What has happened in a lot of places is, they'll come up with a makeshift location. They may have a better location for equipment, but they don't have a facility to set it up in. The soldiers are highly impressed with the facility, because you're not worried about all the logistics. You just set it up and you can go into action," commented Capt. Maynard.

When asked if the site is viewed as a regional asset, Capt. Maynard responded, "Absolutely, because it is funded by the National Guard Bureau. Any Army National Guard unit has top priority. We will support other DOD activities, but the Army National Guard is first, then Army Reserve units."

Capt. Maynard said that the Center is now available for training and can be scheduled through the Plans and Training Division at Headquarters, Camp Edwards at (508) 968-5888. A unit wanting to plan warfare training on the Janus system must notify the Janus staff approximately 180 days prior to the date they wish to conduct their simulation.

2004 Outstanding Massachusetts Air and Army Guard Members Named

Army Guard

NCO of the Year: Sgt John T. Olander, 1st Civil SPT Team (WMD)
Soldier of the Year: Spc. Scott Collins, C Co., 182 In, 26th Brigade

Air Guard

Outstanding Airman of Year Senior NCO: Master Sgt. Bryan A. Pratt, 102nd Fighter Wing
First Sergeant of the Year: Master Sgt. Robert F. Cross, 104th Fighter Wing
Outstanding Airman of the Year: Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Gagne, 212th Engineering Installation Squadron
Outstanding Airman of the Year: Senior Airman David P. Rice, 104th Fighter Wing

New Guard

Workstudy Program

The Recruiting and Retention Command of the Massachusetts Army National Guard is looking for Guard members who are currently in college to be part of pilot, work study program for potential Guard recruits.

The initial plan calls for hiring between 10 and 20 Massachusetts Army National Guard soldiers/students to be employed as team members in the work-study program.

A Work-Study student would earn \$ 6.75 /hour/tax free. The total work-study contract must be a minimum 100 hours with a maximum 425 hours in one semester (or 4 month period). The program has flexible hours, but cannot exceed 1,300 hours in any 12 month period. This averages out to a maximum 25 hours a week during a four-month college semester.

Questions about this program may be directed to Major Thomas Stewart at 508-326-0975 or by email at thomas.stewart@ma.ngb.army.mil